



Dear Applicant and Family,

Meridian Academy values students' ideas and questions, encourages creativity, and helps each student develop as a problem-solver. Meridian is a place where the students know everyone in the school community and are known well in turn. Our students know that their voice makes a difference, as they often take a lead in starting activities, creating school traditions, influencing the development of courses, and identifying community needs that they want to address. Meridian is a school where learning is intellectually vibrant and physically active. Students gain confidence as thinkers who can apply their learning in new ways, as caring community members, and as life-long learners who appreciate that there will always be new questions to pursue and solutions to discover.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.meridianacademy.org](http://www.meridianacademy.org), email us at [info@meridianacademy.org](mailto:info@meridianacademy.org), or call us at 617-277-1118.

Families apply to Meridian through the Ravenna website at [www.ravenna-hub.com](http://www.ravenna-hub.com). Please read through the pages that follow, and let us know if you have any questions. The admissions process is intended to help us learn as much as we can in order to assure a diverse student body and to better serve the students who attend Meridian. We are seeking students who are in traditional schools and who realize that there are more engaging and more varied ways to learn or students who have benefited from a thought-provoking education and who want to continue in that spirit.

Thank you for your interest in our school,

Joshua Abrams  
Head of School

Address:

Meridian Academy  
54 Brookside Avenue  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Contact:

617-277-1118  
[info@meridianacademy.org](mailto:info@meridianacademy.org)  
[www.meridianacademy.org](http://www.meridianacademy.org)



## Application Information and Regular Admissions Timetable

Application Step	Due Dates for Regular Admissions
<b>Attend an information session</b> Prospective students and their parents should visit together.	<b>During the Fall and Winter.</b> Visit <a href="http://www.meridianacademy.org/how-to-apply/how-to-apply">http://www.meridianacademy.org/how-to-apply/how-to-apply</a> or contact the school for upcoming dates.
<b>Let us know of your interest</b> by filling out our inquiry form at <a href="http://www.meridianacademy.org/request-information">www.meridianacademy.org/request-information</a> or through <a href="http://www.ravenna-hub.com">www.ravenna-hub.com</a> .	Families apply to Meridian through the Ravenna portal.
<b>Visit and Interview</b> Applicants join us for a half-day morning visit, hosted by a Meridian student, to see classes and have an interview. Parents will also have the opportunity for a conversation with a member of the admissions committee.	<b>Call to arrange a visit for between October 15<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup>.</b> The student and parent forms should be submitted through Ravenna prior to the visiting day (although the appointment can and should be made in advance).
<b>Teacher Recommendations, Spanish Evaluation, Transcript Request</b> These forms should be requested from your current school and teachers through Ravenna well in advance so that they can complete them in time.	<b>To the teachers and school by February 1<sup>st</sup> (but sooner is better) and due to Meridian by February 15<sup>th</sup>.</b>
<b>Parent and Student Applications and application fee</b> (\$40 paid through Ravenna, but please contact Meridian for a waiver code, if the cost hinders your ability to apply).	<b>By February 1<sup>st</sup>.</b> Late applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.
<b>Test Scores.</b> Applicants may submit either ISEE, SSAT, MCAS, or other standardized exam results. Meridian accepts score reports directly from the family or current school. These may be uploaded through Ravenna, mailed to Meridian, or scanned and emailed to Meridian.	<b>By February 15<sup>th</sup>.</b> For information on test dates and the format of the tests, please visit <a href="http://www.ssat.org">www.ssat.org</a> or <a href="http://www.iseetest.org">www.iseetest.org</a> . Students without standardized test results may take alternative tests administered by Meridian.
<b>Financial Aid Application</b> Submitted online to the <a href="#">School and Student Service</a> (SSS). Please enter School Code #3702 in the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS). A complete copy of your most recent tax return is to be submitted to SSS by May 1.	<b>Due to the SSS by February 15<sup>th</sup>.</b> <i>Families applying by the regular deadline will have greater access to available financial aid awards. Please apply at <a href="http://www.solutionsbysss.com/parents">www.solutionsbysss.com/parents</a>.</i>
<b>Admissions Decisions</b>	<b>Notification on March 10<sup>th</sup>.</b>
<b>Admissions Replies</b>	<b>Accepted families reply by March 31<sup>st</sup>.</b>



## The Accelerated Admissions Option

If you know that Meridian is your family's first choice, and you don't want to apply to several schools or wait until March for a decision, then the Accelerated Admissions option is for you.

*How does the Accelerated Admissions option work?*

As soon as all elements of your application are received and your child has completed a visit and interview, Meridian will let you know of our decision within two weeks. For example, if everything is completed by the start of December, you will hear by mid-December. If you are invited to join the school, you then have two weeks to let us know of your decision.

*Is applying using Accelerated Admissions a binding commitment?*

Our decision is not binding on you, but your decision to attend is binding. You are not making a commitment to attend Meridian simply by applying with the accelerated option. However, once you decide to attend and submit your enrollment agreement, that is a commitment and you will be required to withdraw any applications pending at other schools.

*Does an accelerated application affect the chances of admission?*

Yes! It is advantageous. Your indication that Meridian is your first choice will matter to the admissions committee. We seek to admit students who are enthusiastic about learning at Meridian and about contributing to our community. In 2017-18, 40% of our new students joined Meridian through this option.

*What is the latest date for applying using the Accelerated Admissions option?*

You may complete an Accelerated Admissions application at any time during the fall or winter before January 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Can we submit an accelerated application and receive financial aid?*

If you are applying for an accelerated decision, you will need to complete your School and Student Services (SSS) application at the same time, so that we are able to make a financial aid offer along with any offer of admission. Because an Accelerated Admissions application itself is not binding, you are able to consider our acceptance and financial aid offer before making a commitment. Meridian is dedicated to serving a financially diverse student body. We typically meet (or do better than) a family's Expected Family Contribution (as calculated by SSS) or a family's own estimate of what they can afford, so you will not be at a disadvantage with regard to other potential school offers that you might have received. Please see the Financial Aid page for more information on how Meridian supports families.



## Tuition and Financial Aid Information

Dear Parents,

Since its founding, Meridian Academy has succeeded in its mission to serve an economically diverse community. We are located in the center of the amazing city of Boston, and our population is drawn from different neighborhoods and towns in the greater metropolitan area. Our students have a common interest in experiencing a powerful education with schoolmates from diverse backgrounds.

Meridian strives to make attendance financially possible for every admitted applicant. Meridian families have been awarded aid packages from \$2,000 up to **full scholarships** (\$30,000). Financial aid decisions are made independently of admissions decisions. Whether receiving aid or not, every Meridian family benefits from our commitment to keeping our tuition growth as low as possible. Meridian's tuition is \$18,000 less than at many other local independent schools while providing a student-teacher ratio of 5 to 1.

Aid is awarded based on demonstrated need. Applications for financial aid are submitted to the School and Student Service (SSS), an independent organization used by most independent schools to determine how much a family is able to contribute toward their children's education. Please pay attention to Meridian's application timeline. Most, but not all, of our financial aid awards are made during the Accelerated and Regular Admissions cycles. Applications for aid are completed online at [www.solutionsbysss.com/parents](http://www.solutionsbysss.com/parents).

Notes for filling out your Parent Financial Statement (PFS) on SSS:

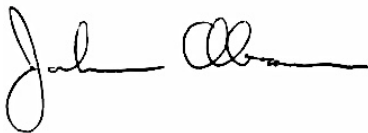
- Once you have read about the process, click on the green "Complete Your PFS" button. You may save your progress and return to it after you have gathered needed information.
- Please enter Meridian's school code #3702 in the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS).
- While it does help, you do not need to complete your IRS Form 1040 before completing the PFS (due by February 15). Certain numbers may be estimated based on past and present circumstances. Ultimately, your PFS and tax return (submitted to Meridian by May 1st) should match.
- You may submit your tax returns and W2 forms online through SSS or you may give Meridian paper copies.
- Meridian will consider the assets and income of all parents when determining an award. Non-custodial parents are required to complete the PFS. Any financial support that may be available beyond the parents' income and assets should be reported. These might include resources from grandparents or other relatives.

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Unless a family's financial circumstances change considerably, Meridian will typically continue to provide aid each year at a rate similar to when a student is first admitted. For example, if a family is paying 25% of tuition, they will continue to be offered aid that results in them paying approximately 25% of each year's full tuition. Families who cannot afford full tuition for all of their child's years at Meridian should apply for aid for the first year, even if they have savings that could cover that one year. Returning families must submit a new PFS on time each year. If a family's finances do change, Meridian will adjust tuition accordingly either upward or downward (if our resources permit additional support).

If you have any questions regarding our financial aid process or filling out the PFS, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,



Joshua Abrams  
Head of School

## Tuition and Other Costs

### TUITION for 2018 – 2019

Grades 6 and 7	\$29,250
Grades 8 and 9	\$29,750
Grades 10, 11, and 12	\$30,250

Texts, books, extracurricular activities, yearbooks, a Meridian Academy sweatshirt, and field trips are included in tuition. A few opportunities are extra, such as overnight trips for our extracurricular model United Nations delegation and the Spanish Community Service Trip abroad that each student takes in their sophomore or junior year. Students in grade 9 and above are required to have a laptop. **For families receiving tuition reduction of at least 75%, up to full assistance is available for these technology and travel expenses.** Meridian is committed to economic equity and access for all curricular and extra-curricular experiences. Support for college visits is also available. Meridian does not cover lunch or T-pass costs.